

REMARKS

This is intended as a full and complete response to the Office Action dated April 11, 2006, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on July 11, 2006. Please reconsider the claims pending in the application for reasons discussed below.

Claims 1 and 3-28 are pending in the application. Claims 1 and 3-28 remain pending following entry of this response. Claims 1, 3, 11, 13 and 17 have been amended. Applicants submit that the amendments do not introduce new matter.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 101

Claims 1 and 3-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 because the claims are directed to a non-statutory subject matter, specifically, the claims are not directed towards the final result that is "useful, tangible and concrete.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection. Respectfully, Applicants submit that the Examiner has not made a proper rejection. The present rejection is merely conclusory. That is, the Examiner merely cites to certain Guidelines pertaining to 35 U.S.C. § 101, but provides no particular application of the guidelines to the present claims. Accordingly, it is unclear in which respects (if any) the present claims are insufficient to satisfy 35 U.S.C. § 101. Nevertheless, in an effort to move prosecution forward Applicants have made amendments which are believed to emphasize aspects of the invention and recite a result that is "useful, tangible and concrete".

Conclusion

Having addressed all issues set out in the office action, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request that the claims be allowed.

Respectfully submitted, and
S-signed pursuant to 37 CFR 1.4,

/Gero G. McClellan, Reg. No. 44,227/
Gero G. McClellan
Registration No. 44,227
PATTERSON & SHERIDAN, L.L.P.
3040 Post Oak Blvd. Suite 1500
Houston, TX 77056
Telephone: (713) 623-4844
Facsimile: (713) 623-4846
Attorney for Applicant(s)